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**Title:** Coffee Houses From Past to Present, The Place and Importance of Coffee Houses in Social Life: Aydın Example

## **ABSTRACT**

Coffee, the ritualistic and symbolic beverage of Turkish culture and social life, exhibit its social characteristics, especially during marriage ceremonies and Islamic religious holidays. The fact that coffee has become socially significant has led the first coffee house to be established in the 16th century. From a cultural and social standpoint, coffee houses serve as centers of social interaction, providing the people with a medium to talk, make political discussion, communicate with each other, entertain, play backgammon and chess. Integrating with social structure, the coffee houses are one of the most socially and religiously discussable institutions that remain speculative. However, the fact that coffee houses maintain their existence increases their attraction of being a topic of research

Today, coffee houses are one of the traditional places of Turkey like in the past and still have a very important place in social life. So, the present study is aimed at examining the coffee houses from both diachronic and sociological views. It is also important to emphasize that coffee houses should be considered an important public sphere for mass education

**Key Words:** Coffee, coffee house, coffee house activities, public sphere, coffee house culture, structuralism, structural analysis